

## **RESOLUTION NO. RS2018-1312**

### **A resolution recognizing and celebrating Matthew Walker Comprehensive Health Center's 50th anniversary of service to Tennessee.**

WHEREAS, for more than fifty years, community health centers have provided high-quality, affordable health care in our nation's underserved communities, demonstrating that locally governed health care can improve lives while lowering costs; and

WHEREAS, what began as a small demonstration project in two states has grown into the country's largest primary care network, with health centers now serving as the health care home for over twenty-four million Americans through more than 9,000 service delivery sites across the country; and

WHEREAS, one in every fourteen people living in the United States relies on a community health center for their medical care; and

WHEREAS, as locally owned and operated small businesses, health centers serve as important economic engines, helping to power local economies by generating millions of dollars in combined economic impact and creating jobs in some of the nation's most economically deprived communities; and

WHEREAS, Matthew Walker Comprehensive Health Center began its legacy in August of 1968 as the Meharry Neighborhood Health Center, on Jefferson Street in Nashville, a family-oriented ambulatory health center to provide comprehensive health services to the underserved population in one convenient location, to prevent and treat disease, and to provide jobs for persons of low economic and educational backgrounds; and

WHEREAS, in 1971, the center was named for Dr. Matthew Walker, Sr., to honor him for his vision of a community health center in North Nashville and for his lifetime of service to the Nashville community; and

WHEREAS, Matthew Walker Comprehensive Health Center has grown from a single facility to a community staple of medical, dental, nutritional, and behavioral health, all while remaining an organization dedicated to saving lives and reaching communities; and

WHEREAS, Matthew Walker Comprehensive Health Center continues to serve communities in Middle Tennessee with facilities in Nashville, Clarksville and Smyrna; and

WHEREAS, the health center model continues to provide an effective means of reducing healthcare disparities and overcoming such barriers to healthcare access as geography, income, and insurance status, thereby improving healthcare outcomes and reducing healthcare system costs; and

WHEREAS, health centers save the entire health system approximately twenty-four billion dollars annually by managing chronic conditions and keeping patients out of costlier healthcare settings, such as hospital emergency rooms; and

WHEREAS, the demand for health centers continues to outpace growth, and expansion of health centers' capacity and reach are essential to meeting the needs of new patients, particularly as existing health centers are already at capacity and many communities have no primary care services at all; and

WHEREAS, Matthew Walker Comprehensive Health Center is celebrating fifty years of service to the Nashville and Middle Tennessee community and provides affordable healthcare to 17,000 patients a year and remains a vital community resource and institution; and

WHEREAS, National Health Center Week recognizes our nation's health centers, their dedicated staff and board members, and all those responsible for the continued success and growth of the health center program since the first health centers opened their doors more than fifty years ago.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE METROPOLITAN GOVERNMENT OF NASHVILLE AND DAVIDSON COUNTY:

Section 1. The Metropolitan Council hereby goes on record as recognizing and celebrating Matthew Walker Comprehensive Health Center's 50th anniversary of service to the Middle Tennessee area.

Section 2. The Metropolitan Council Office is directed to prepare a copy of this Resolution to be presented to Matthew Walker Comprehensive Health Center.

Section 3. This Resolution shall take effect from and after its adoption, the welfare of The Metropolitan Government of Nashville and Davidson County requiring it.

SPONSORED BY:

---

Freddie O'Connell  
Member of Council